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STIFFENING BIG FOUR TALKS

Atmosphere Heightened By Gromyko Statement

COMMENT

The Director of Commerce and Industry's frank outline of the largely negative results of his mission to London and Washington came as no surprise, although it was none the less unwelcome.

points only offered real relief from discouragement. Negotiations are not stalemated. The Colony's representations, and assurances of goodwill in support of Washington's objective, are still under study at high levels and further relaxation remains feasible. Secondly, efforts to obtain alternative sources of supply are being actively pursued in the United Kingdom and on the Continent.

Positive gain as the result of Mr Clarke's trip to Washington was the removal of misconceptions, some of them formidably unfavourable, about commercial and industrial activities in Hongkong, notably those concerning the extent of local dealings with Communist China. Together with this attempt to put into its true perspective American ideas on the Colony's main trade outlets, the guarantee that there will be no loosening of controls preventing strategic materials reaching nations regarded as unfriendly, should gradually produce easier conditions for obtaining our own imperative needs—imperative if certain industrial enterprises are not to be brought to a standstill.

True, no clear promise of that development was to be discerned in the Director's outline. The charge of Washington's ultra-zealousness in erecting barriers to American exports of various commodities with no obvious place in the embargo pattern cannot, unfortunately, be wholly dismissed. All that can be expected, apparently, is that when the Commerce Department gets fully into the swing of its new responsibility, and when Hongkong has better understanding of the minimum requirements, speedier movement will be facilitated.

With that, it seems, with however much reluctance, the local commercial world must rest content—and reflect on the Colony's past record in the spheres of adaptability as the saving grace.

Hope Of Early Agreement On Agenda Diminishes

The Soviet and Western Foreign Ministers' deputies met for five hours here today but did not reach the point of trying to "marry" the rival agendas submitted yesterday for a full-scale Foreign Ministers' conference on East-West tension, a Western spokesman announced tonight.

Observers who attended the deputies' second meeting in the Rose Palace said that the tranquil and restrained atmosphere which characterised the opening three-hour talk yesterday was not quite sustained by the time Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet delegate, had finished a 90-minute statement today.

Alleged U.S. Corregidor

Traitor

New York, Mar. 6. The treason trial of John David Provo, 34, was set for May 15, contingent on the outcome of the hearing on the former sergeant's appeal to be tried by military court instead of a civil court.

Provo ignored his lawyer and demanded a military trial. He contended that his arrest on September 2, 1949, and his detention since then without bail were illegal because the acts of which he is accused allegedly occurred while he was a soldier under the jurisdiction of the military.

Provo was charged by a Federal grand jury with helping the Japanese take Corregidor and making radio broadcasts from Japan with Tokyo Rose.

Despite the former sergeant's actions, his attorney and an assistant United States attorney will fly to the Far East this weekend to take depositions from witnesses in Japan and in Sydney, Australia. — United Press.

Planes Back On The Job

Tokyo, Mar. 7. Allied warplanes were flying over the Korean front early today in clear skies after snow and low clouds hampered air activities somewhat during the past days.

Ground-based planes flew less than 150 sorties on Tuesday, the Far East Air Force Headquarters announced. There was no report from the Navy on its carrier activities for the day.

All-weather B-29s from Okinawa braved the foul weather to plaster Hamhung, Hungnam and Pyongyang with 160 tons of bombs. All but one attack on Hamhung was by radar. — United Press.

South Pole Crossed

Buenos Aires, Mar. 6. An Argentine scientific mission conducting surveys in the Argentine Antarctic region crossed the South Pole, it was announced here today. — United Press.

The Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister said that the question of an Austrian peace treaty—included in the Western Powers' suggested three-point programme yesterday—could be admitted as a supplementary point on the agenda.

In addition to Mr Gromyko, the deputies are Mr Ernest Davies, British Foreign Under-Secretary, Dr Philip Jessup, American Ambassador-at-Large, and M. Alexandre Parodi, Secretary-General at the French Foreign Office.

Mr Davies, on behalf of the West, and Mr Gromyko both yesterday suggested three-point agendas which would be placed before a full meeting of the Foreign Ministers to thrash out East-West difficulties.

Both agendas dealt with Europe in general and Germany in particular but whereas the Western agenda included Austria, the Soviet's omitted this.

The task of the deputies now is to weld these agendas into an agreed timetable of discussion for their chiefs. The degree of priority of the various items is the key problem.

All four deputies spoke at today's meeting.

Mr Gromyko's statement lasted 90 minutes, that of Dr Jessup 20 minutes. M. Parodi also spoke while Mr Davies, who was the main Western spokesman yesterday, acted as chairman today and spoke for five minutes.

GROMYKO REMINDED

Mr Gromyko was answered by Dr Jessup and M. Parodi who, it was understood, reminded the Russians that it was at their request that no substance in the questions should be dealt with. They recalled that the scope of this meeting was only to prepare an agenda wide enough to bring in all causes of tension.

Asked if there was any attempt at the meeting to weld together the two agendas, a Western spokesman said, "In both agendas there are parts which could very well be married up."

Another Western spokesman said that Mr Gromyko went into a substantive discussion of the issues which might be considered not within the terms of reference of the meeting.

Dr Jessup then reviewed the purpose of the meeting and drew attention to the limitations of its scope.

The spokesman said that if the tempo of the meeting accelerated they hoped to hold two meetings a day.

STIFFENING

A third Western spokesman spoke of a "stiffening" of Mr Gromyko's attitude on the

MOLLET FAILS TO GET VOTE

Paris, Mar. 6.

The Socialist leader, M. Guy Mollet, was defeated in his bid for the Premiership of France, according to semi-official figures on the confidence vote in the French National Assembly tonight.

M. Mollet failed to win the requisite majority of 311 votes necessary for investiture in the National Assembly. According to the first count, he had 298 votes.

The National Assembly appeared reluctant to make up its mind today whether to accord 45-year-old M. Guy Mollet, the Socialist Party leader, the Premiership in the Government to succeed the Pleven Cabinet that collapsed a week ago.

After listening mostly in moody silence to the Premier-designate's speech, party leaders asked him for further details of his intentions. The Popular Republicans even added a new difficulty by saying that Catholic schools "must" have tax relief this year.

Financing of religious schools is as controversial an issue as that of the electoral reform, on which the majority parties remain in complete disagreement.

Voting was postponed until after 9.00 p.m. GMT tonight.

Today was the seventh day of France's 13th postwar crisis. — Reuter.

Egyptian Feminist Under Charge

Cairo, Mar. 6. Doria Chafik Chic, the Egyptian feminist leader, has been charged with trying to foment a revolution in connection with the recent feminist demonstration in front of Parliament.

The Union Bent el Nil—"Daughters of the Nile"—said Mrs Chafik, one of the best-dressed women in Egyptian society, had additionally been charged with breaking the law against public demonstrations.

A summons ordering her appearance in court on Friday was issued on Monday, but Mrs Chafik pointed out that the law specifies she must be notified three days before the trial.

"I am prepared even for a prison sentence. But I will not abandon my fight for women's rights in Egypt. No worthwhile goal is even achieved without sacrifices, and I am prepared to undergo any sacrifices to bring about women's rights."

A statement issued by the Daughters of the Nile group, said Mrs Chafik assumed sole responsibility for the demonstration. — United Press.

Titoism Spreads To Portugal

Lisbon, Mar. 6. Informed sources said today that dissident Portuguese Communists had split from the Kremlin-controlled underground Communist Party and formed a "National Communist Party".

The new party pledged itself to marxist doctrine and policy in Portugal free from Russian domination along the lines followed by Marshal Tito of Yugoslavia. — United Press.

Ship Sinking After Heavy Collision

New York, Mar. 6. Rescue cutters today reached the 2,415-ton Norwegian ship, Bertha Provis, which had radioed earlier that she was "probably sinking" after a collision with a Danish ship off the Delaware coast.

The Coast Guard authorities here said that the cutters were standing by the stricken ship as she moved slowly toward shore through a heavy fog. The Bertha Provis' captain radioed that he would try to run the ship aground in Delaware Bay "if my power holds out."

His message said that water was pouring into one of the ship's holds and she was settling slowly. Earlier the engine room was reported to be flooded.

The Coast Guard said that the Danish ship, the 3,365-ton Urantborg, had suffered little damage.

The collision took place near the point at which Delaware Bay meets the Atlantic Ocean. It is one of America's busiest shipping lanes, carrying traffic to and from Philadelphia.

On the way to the rescue, one of the Coast Guard cutters picked up six men from a fishing boat which had run aground in the fog. — Reuter.

RE-SHUFFLING OF ALLIED FORCES IN W. GERMANY

Big Three To Disregard Zonal Boundaries

Heidelberg, Mar. 6.

The American Army announced today that the agreement of the "Big Three" Foreign Ministers' meeting in New York in September, which authorised the stationing of occupation troops in Western Germany without regard to zonal boundaries was now being put into effect.

This agreement opens the way for a reshuffle of Allied troops in Germany to improve their defensive dispositions.

The Army said that in accordance with an agreement between Mr. John McCloy, the United States High Commissioner, and M. Andre Francois-Poncet, his French opposite number, some United States troops will now be stationed in the French zone and French troops in the American zone.

The announcement said that the Allied step was "in accord with the common objectives of the Allies and the harmony of their operations."

The agreement will not effect a change in the zonal boundaries nor will there be any change in the existing relationship between occupying troops and local German authorities.

The first step to redistribute American and French troops was taken last week-end when advance elements of French units arrived in the area of Wetzlar in Northern Hesse in the American zone, the Army announcement said.

Other areas in the United States zone where French troops are expected to be stationed in the near future are Frittlak, Marburg and Siessen, all in Hesse, and around Pforzheim and Kaiserslautern. Some units will be deployed in smaller garrisons in the French zone.

REINFORCEMENTS

In some cases the new troops will reinforce forces already there while in others they will replace them. The transfers will not affect the German administration of the American and French High Commission organisations in the areas concerned.

The present American occupation forces number two divisions — the Constabulary force, an armoured division

and the First Infantry, which together form the Seventh Army, and an American brigade in West Berlin.

The French forces consist of one division, the Fifth Armoured, in West Germany and a brigade in West Berlin. Except for those in Berlin these forces were stationed on the western side of the Rhine.

The British have two divisions—the Seventh Armoured and the Second Infantry—in West Germany and a brigade in West Berlin.—Reuter.

Meat Talks

Progress

Buenos Aires, Mar. 6.

Mr. John Edwards, head of the British delegation, said that after two hours' discussion today the Argentine and British negotiators agreed on the agenda for future discussions on the meat agreement and other trade matters.

He would not specify points on the agenda but said the meat problem would not be considered separately. It was treated as part of the overall picture of Anglo-Argentine relations.

The next meeting is to be held tomorrow.—United Press.

Answer To Tin Outburst

Washington, Mar. 6.

The United States Government announced today that all new purchases of tin for stockpiling would be suspended immediately.—Reuter.

KING'S LIBERTY

Air-Conditioned

★ 4 SHOWS TO-DAY ★

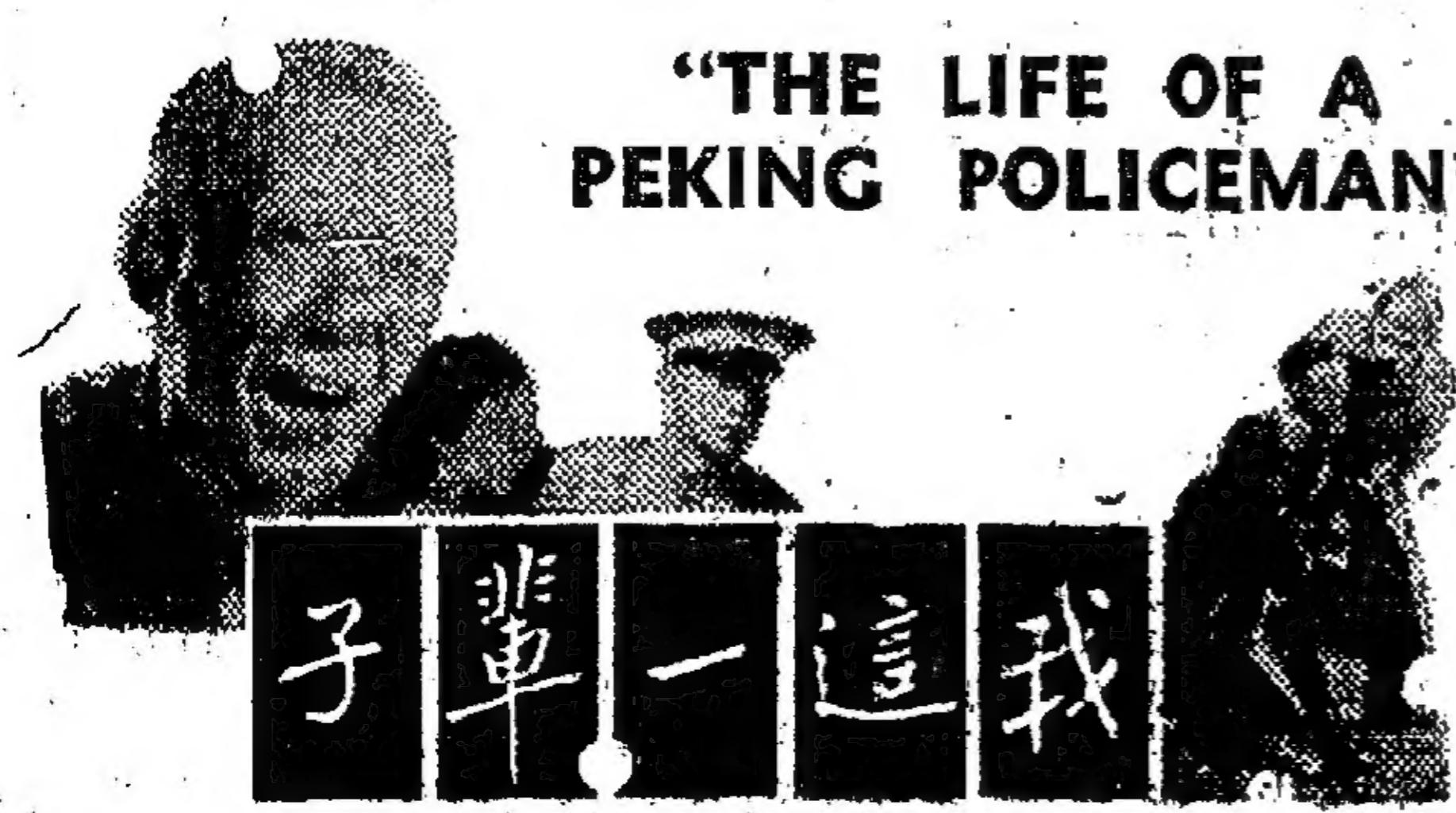
AT 2.30, 5.15, 7.20

& 9.30 P.M.

AT 2.30, 5.30, 7.30

& 9.30 P.M.

"THE LIFE OF A PEKING POLICEMAN"



A CHINESE PICTURE IN MANDARIN DIALOGUE

A PICTURE OF CONCENTRATION



An expression picture of four members of the Oxford Boat Race crew during their first outing on the Tideway at Putney last week. They are (left to right) H. J. Renton, G.C.V. Davidge (President) now rowing at No. 4, M. J. Hawkes and C. G. Turner.—Central Press.

Powerful Kashmir Plea In U.N. By Pakistan: Outstanding Man Need

Lake Success, Mar. 6.

Pakistan asked the United Nations today to appoint "an outstanding personality" with full powers to resolve the long-standing dispute between India and Pakistan on the future of Kashmir.

Sir Mohammed Zafrullah Khan, Pakistan's Foreign Minister, called upon the Security Council for "prompt and vigorous action."

He said that whoever was appointed by the United Nations should have full powers for the discharge of his responsibility including the power to effect demilitarisation by removing or disbanding the military forces of all interested parties; to exercise effective supervision over the functions of government in the State and to arbitrate on points of difference between the parties.

Sir Mohammed also asked the Council to take the following action:

(1) To call upon India and Pakistan to withdraw their forces and to co-operate with the United Nations representative in the discharge of his duties.

(2) To ask India not to invoke a Constituent Assembly in Kashmir or make any attempt "to determine unilaterally the future of the State".

Sir Mohammed said that taking this action the Council would put "to a final and conclusive test" India's statement that it wished to honour its obligations under previous Council resolutions which called for a free and impartial plebiscite in Kashmir.

NO TIME TO LOSE

He said that events in the world were moving fast and there was no time to lose. If the Council did not take prompt action there would be "the greatest danger to the peace of Asia".

Sir Mohammed, at the opening of his statement to the Council, said that unfortunately very little progress had been made towards a peaceful settlement of the Kashmir question which had been before the Council on several occasions.

He said that Sir Benegal Narsing Rau (India) in his speech last week had set himself a "comparatively easy task".

It was to impress upon the Council that it need do no more than accept Sir Owen Dixon's suggestion that the matter now be left to discussion and settlement between the parties themselves.

THE DANGER

"At least a part of the objective he set himself was that the Security Council should be persuaded that the best thing to do now with regard to Kashmir was to do nothing", Sir Mohammed said.

"All that was necessary for him to do was to put forward certain considerations which would show that a peaceful settlement was difficult — at least through the efforts of the Security Council — and that, therefore, the problem should be left to look after itself."

"Of course, the danger there is that a problem left to look after itself may run wild. When it runs wild nobody can predict where it might run to and what it might bring in its wake."

Sir Mohammed said that his task was a more difficult one. It was to try to convince the Security Council that the situation was of such gravity that it required earnest, vigorous and speedy action if it was to be prevented from breaking out in a manner wherein a peaceful settlement might be ruled out.

Further, his task was to indicate where previous efforts had "got stuck" and what was needed to bring the matter towards a speedy, peaceful settlement.

The whole argument of the Indian delegate rested on the "absolutely untenable assumption that India was in lawful occupation of Kashmir", he said.

"The stark fact is that India's occupation of Kashmir was brought about as the result of a conspiracy between

Good Offices Committee Try Again

Lake Success, Mar. 6.

Authoritative sources disclosed tonight that the United Nations Good Offices Committee has sent another inquiry to Peking.

The three-man committee dispatched a message last Friday to Torsten Hammerstrom, Swedish Ambassador to the Red Chinese government, asking him to advise them what disposition has been made of their previous feeler for negotiations toward an end of the Korean war.

The Committee tended to regard Communist China's continuing silence on the feeler as encouraging. Some members of the group believe that if Peking intended to reject the United Nations latest overture, it would simply have referred to Foreign Minister Chou En-lai's earlier declaration that the General Assembly action on Korea is "illegal".—United Press.

the Hindu ruler of Kashmir and the Hindu leaders of India, the victims of that conspiracy being the people of Kashmir", Sir Mohammed said.

"This conspiracy was hatched during the spring and summer of 1947 when some of the most prominent Hindu leaders visited Kashmir and persuaded the Maharanja to accept their point of view", he added.

He said that the Maharanja wrote on October 26, 1947, requesting military assistance from the Indian Government. On the morning of the next day, as the result of airborne operations over high mountain ranges, portions of the State had been occupied by Indian air force.

"Those of you who may claim experience of these matters will be able to judge how much preparation must have preceded an operation of that kind," Sir Mohammed said.—Reuter.

HEAVY SNOW HALTS U.S. ADVANCE

Patrols Into Seoul Compelled To Pull Out Under Heavy Fire

Communist Tanks Moving On Key Point Hoengsong

Malik Throws Back U.S. Accusation

Lake Success, Mar. 6. M. Jacob Malik, the Soviet delegate to the United Nations, today denied that Russia had prevented the adoption of a proposed international arms census.

The allegation was made on Saturday by Mr Frank Nash, the United States representative on the United Nations Commission for Conventional Armaments.

Mr Nash then said that if the Soviet Government really wanted the world to know the facts about the level of armaments, it would withdraw its opposition to a programme approved by the majority of the General Assembly for an exchange of exact and authenticated information concerning armaments and armed forces among member states.

Mr Nash said that the proposal for such a census was vetoed in the Security Council by Russia.

Today M. Malik issued a statement through the United Nations which said: "The allegation of Mr Nash that the Soviet Union prevented the adoption of a proposal for the submission by states of information on armaments and armed forces is groundless.

"In reality, the United States as well as the other countries of the Anglo-American bloc, rejected the proposal of the USSR for the submission by States both of information on armaments and armed forces which was introduced by the representative of the USSR in the Security Council on October 13, 1949."—Reuter.

Six inches of snow almost halted advance on the central front in Korea today as General Douglas MacArthur warned that the Communists were building up for another big counter-offensive.

American and South Korean patrols crossed the Han River into the outskirts of the battered South Korean capital of Seoul and in the centre of the front the Americans advanced about one mile without encountering enemy resistance.

All United Nations patrols were forced back from the outskirts of Seoul after heavy exchanges of fire.

Pilots reported North Korean and Chinese Communist troop concentrations building up at several places along the front.

The Communists have been fighting a delaying action since their failure to break through the United Nations line on the central front.

The action was a screen for the building up of nine to 12 fresh or rehabilitated divisions, the United Nations Supreme Commander said in a personal communiqué.

His warning was echoed by General Ridgway, Commander of the Eighth Army, who said he could hold any offensive "at the moment," but the position would be materially altered if the Communists threw in all their forces and additional armies.

An Eighth Army spokesman claimed tonight that the United Nations ground troops inflicted 3,029 casualties on the Communists along the front yesterday.

RED PROBING ATTACKS

Today American troops advanced more than 1,000 yards east of Hoengsong, the pivot of the United Nations line.

Pilots reported Communist tanks moving towards Hoengsong. Small groups of Chinese

Communist cavalry were also seen in the area.

A few miles further east American troops had to fight off Communist probing attacks at three points. Other American troops occupied Changpyong, about 24 miles south of the 38th Parallel.

The British Commonwealth 27th Brigade reported "no contact" in their area around Yongduri, about 40 miles east of Seoul.—Reuter.

Tokyo, Mar. 6. the United Nations today as General

Communists were building up for another big counter-offensive.

Thieves Throw Jet Plans Away

Paris, Mar. 6. Thieves who stole plans of a French jet aircraft from a test pilot's car last Sunday threw them into the Seine, the police said here today.

They arrested two men who confessed to the theft but claimed that they had thrown the documents into the river as "worthless." One of the men said that he could not read.—Reuter.

Greece And Turkey May Be Invited Into Atlantic Pact

Athens, March 6.

Greece and Turkey may be invited to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation if the recommendations of American military leaders and diplomats are accepted, usually reliable sources said today.

The recommendations, made last month by the conference of American Ambassadors at Istanbul, were said to be fully supported by Admiral Robert Carney, Commander of the American Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean fleets, and Air Secretary, Mr Thomas Finletter, who attended the conference as consultants.

There were three principal reasons for the recommendation:

(1) To improve Greek and Turkish morale by giving them greater sense of security, that is guaranteeing their frontiers.

(2) To overcome the deadlock in Greco-Turkish military talks. Military discussions between the two countries have resulted only in the decision that some form of collective security was necessary. No workable agreement has been reached.

(3) To take advantage of the 32 active divisions in Greece and Turkey at a time when other European countries are straining their manpower reserves to build up Western European defence.

Informed sources said that if President Truman approved the incorporation of Greece and Turkey, the American recommendation would be sent to the Atlantic Pact headquarters. Any invitation will come from the N. A. T. O. itself.

The inclusion of Greece and Turkey would not mean troop transfers since their men will remain at home where they will if necessary bear the burden of defence in the Middle East and Eastern Mediterranean.—United Press.

Moscow, Mar. 6. The Britain, American and French Ambassadors in Moscow today attended the opening of the second session of the Supreme Soviet—the Russian Parliament—in the great hall of the Kremlin Palace.

The British envoy, Sir David Kelly, attended the meeting of one chamber, the Council of the Union.

The American and French Ambassadors, Admiral Alan G. Kirk and M. Yves Chataigneau, attended later session of the second chamber, the 638-member Council of Nationalities.

President Nikolai Shvernik and six Deputy Premiers of the Soviet Union—but not Premier Josef Stalin—attended the opening of the Council of the Union session.

On the raised front benches facing the floor of the white marble hall sat Deputy Premiers Molotov, Malenkov, Beria, Voroshilov, Andreyev and Kaganovich. Behind them stood the life-sized granite statue of Lenin.

The absence of Premier Stalin on this first day is usual. But the Soviet leader has always, in the past four years, attended the budget session when both chambers meet together. That is due tomorrow night.

Ratification of the budget for 1951 is the main item on the agenda because it defines and provides the funds for the year's development projects.—Reuter.

Queens

SHOWING TO-DAY
AT 2.30, 5.15, 7.20
& 9.30 P.M.

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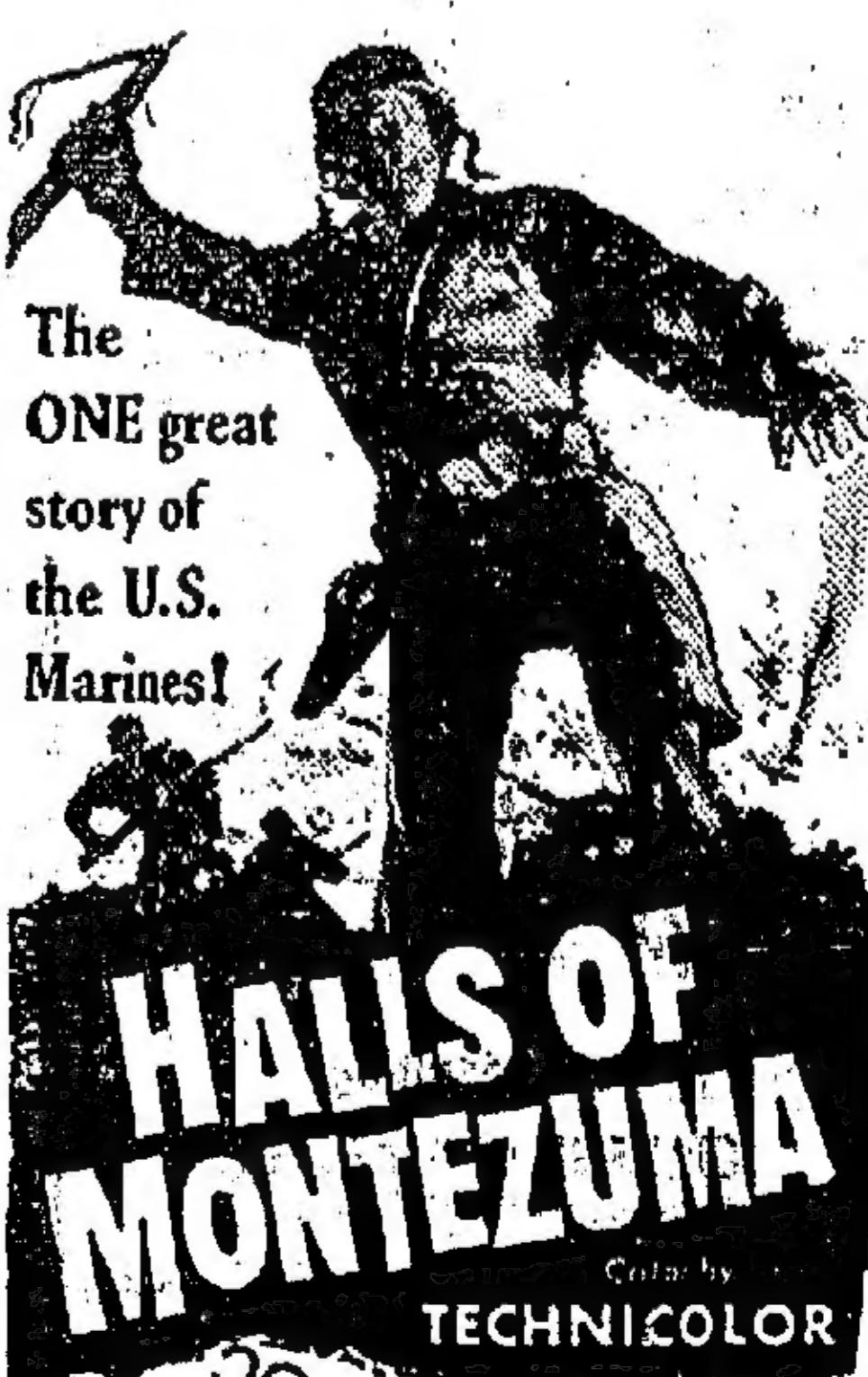
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SEEKING SAFETY—Sitting on their heavy packs in the snow, three young Korean refugee children stop for a short rest before continuing their trek south, away from the fighting front. They exist in the paradox of safety one day and danger the next.

MEDICAL ORDERLIES' WASHDAY



U. S. Army medical orderlies take time out from tending the wounded to wash their vehicles in an icy stream near a small Korean village on the central front. In the background, one of the orderlies uses a small wooden platform to keep his feet dry while swabbing the starboard side of a jeep. That ice water isn't the most comfortable kind to work with.

Decorations For Correspondents

Tokyo, Mar. 6.

The American Eighth Army Headquarters in Korea today announced the award of the "Purple Heart" service ribbon for wounds received in action to six American war correspondents.

An Army spokesman said that altogether over 20 United Nations correspondents had been killed or wounded either in Korea or on the way to the combat zone.

The Purple Heart—introduced by General George Washington in 1782—is awarded under the United States Army regulations to any member of the American Armed Forces or any American civilian serving with the Army who is wounded in action against the enemy.

Announcing the awards the spokesman recalled the deaths of British correspondents Ian Morrison, of the London Times, and Christopher Buckley, of the London Daily Telegraph, who were killed when their jeep ran over a land-mine last August.

He recalled that the British correspondents wounded in Korea were Randolph Churchill, son of wartime Prime Minister, representing the London Daily Telegraph, and Warren White, representing Reuters and the Australian Associated Press.

A French correspondent, Jean Marie de Premonville, of Agence France Presse, was killed near Hoengsong on Feb. 12, and Pierre Doublet, of the same agency, was wounded during the Inchon landing.

The names of the American war correspondents who were awarded the Purple Heart were:

Frank Emery, of International News Service (who was later killed in an air crash en route to Korea).

William Blair, and

Philip Potter, both of the "Baltimore Sun."

Jack James, of the United Press Association.

Eugene Jones, of the National Broadcasting Company.

Fred Waters, of International News Service.

The spokesman said that these were the first American newsmen to receive the Purple Heart as a result of wounds received in Korea but said that further names would be added to the list.—Reuter.



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For further information please telephone the Secretary (23013).

MACDONALD TO START TALKS IN LONDON TODAY

London, Mar. 6.

Mr Malcolm MacDonald, British Commissioner General in South-East Asia, arrived here by air tonight.

Mr MacDonald is here for talks on the Far Eastern situation with the Prime Minister, Mr Clement Attlee, and Cabinet Ministers. He had flown here from Singapore with General Sir John Harding, Commander-in-Chief, British land forces in the Far East.

FRENCH DEMARCHE TO EGYPT

Paris, Mar. 6.

The Egyptian Ambassador, Ahmed Sardit, was today summoned to the French Foreign Office by the French Foreign Minister, M. Robert Schuman. M. Schuman expressed the astonishment and indignation of the French people at the present campaign about Morocco in Egyptian papers.

M. Schuman was reported to have asked the Egyptian Ambassador why the Egyptian Government allowed the national Press to continue to publish information known to be entirely inaccurate.

He was said to have also insisted that the Egyptian Government should give the French Government a reply to the question.

M. Eduard Herriot, Speaker of the National Assembly and third ranking personality in the Fourth French Republic, said in Parliament today: "I protest against the insulting and inept calumnies from a country which has, in the past, accustomed us to expect from it a more seemly behaviour."

M. Herriot's protest followed an accusation by the Nationalist Algerian deputy, M. Ahmed Mezerna, that "French policy in Morocco is a policy of characteristic aggression." He added that the Resident-General, General Alphonse Juin, was conducting repression "in a masterly manner."

Meanwhile in Cairo today, the French Ambassador, M. Couve de Murville, asked to see the Egyptian Prime Minister, Nahas Pasha. The French request was understood to arise from Egypt's attitude towards the developments in French Morocco.

Abdel Krim, the refugee leader of the Riff uprising in 1920-26, called on the Egyptian Foreign Minister today and thanked him for Egypt's support for the Arab cause in Morocco. (Abdel Krim was deported by the French to Reunion Island in 1926 and lived in exile there until 1947. Given permission to take up residence in France, he left his ship in Egypt and has since lived there.)—Reuter.

RABAT INQUIRY

Casablanca, Mar. 6.

A judicial inquiry into "spreading false news of such nature as to disturb public order" has been opened at Rabat, the administrative capital of French Morocco, as a sequel to reports on the situation published in the Egyptian Press.

One such report said that the French had bombed the northern city of Fez, the cultural and religious centre of French Morocco.

The Grand Vizier of Morocco today presented to General Alphonse Juin, the Resident-General, the new Viziers ap-

pointed in last week's reshuffle of the Maghzen (Moroccan Government), which eliminated Istiqlal (extreme nationalists) sympathisers from key posts.

General Harding will be taking part in some joint consultations and will also have talks with War Office officials.

Mr MacDonald said at the airport that the Communists in South-East Asia would have no hope whatsoever if it were not for the Communist threat from outside.

"If they do not get help from outside the position will improve slowly and steadily," he said.

Asked if there was a danger of Chinese "volunteers" marching into Indo-China, he replied: "Your guess is as good as mine."

The Commissioner-General said that since his last visit to London in November, things had got a little better in Malaya. "People are getting more information about the terrorist movement, which means that our forces are able to make more contacts and get more kills," he said.

VAST IMPROVEMENT

To a large extent, the improvement of conditions in Malaya depended on what happened outside. But in recent months there had also been a vast improvement in the surrounding countries. Particularly Indo-China and Burma.

"General de Latte de Tas-signy, the new French Commander-in-Chief, has done wonders," Mr MacDonald declared. "He has inflicted a considerable defeat on the Vietminh forces."

On Burma, he said: "The Government has inflicted a defeat on the insurgent forces during the last six months' period, and their authority, both political and military, is considerably stronger than it was."

Referring to his visit to London, Mr MacDonald said that he was here for another periodic review of the situation in South-East Asia. He wanted to get round the table with the Ministers here who had responsibilities in connection with that part of the world.

He felt that it was necessary to establish personal contacts between the Government in the centre and its representative on the perimeter. Personal meetings were of far more value than conducting conversations over thousands of miles by telegram.

During his stay in London Mr MacDonald will stay at the Government Guest House in London's West End. — Reuter.

pointed in last week's reshuffle of the Maghzen (Moroccan Government), which eliminated Istiqlal (extreme nationalists) sympathisers from key posts.

The situation in Morocco remained completely calm today. There have been no incidents of any kind in Casablanca where the Istiqlal has more supporters than elsewhere.—Reuter.

U.S. ATTITUDE

Washington, Mar. 6.

The U.S. State Department declined to elaborate today on its statement yesterday that the United States had urged moderation by both France and Morocco in their political difficulties.

But it was stated that the Department did not intend to retract or modify its statement.—Reuter.

OCCUPATION STATUTE REVISED

Western Allies Grant Important Concessions To Germany

Bonn To Set Up Its Own Foreign Office

Bonn, Mar. 6.

Britain, France and the United States today gave West Germany freedom to run its own internal legislation, set up its own Foreign Office and maintain diplomatic relations with non-Communist countries. Greater control of foreign trade was also granted.

The Western German Government, in return, accepted responsibility for Germany's pre-war and post-war debts and guaranteed the Western Powers access to strategic raw materials vital for Western defence.

These were the main points in a six-point revision of the Occupation Statute announced by the Allied High Commission to become effective from midnight.

The post-war debts cover aid to Western Germany and the three powers.

These were stated in a supplementary Allied communiqué to total \$3,500 million but no final estimate of the debts had yet been made owing to interest and legal problems.

The Allies envisaged a settlement in the form of a multilateral agreement with any bilateral pacts that might be considered necessary, concluded within the framework of the overall settlement plan.

Western Germany's capacity to pay and her reduced economic wealth and territory would be taken into account.

The Allies stated that they were also preparing proposals for the working out of pre-war debts. These would provide for the participation of foreign creditors, German debtors and all interested governments.

The capital amount of pre-war securities yielding a fixed income not yet redeemed was put at about \$1,000 million.

DEFENCE EFFORT

Dr Konrad Adenauer, the West German Chancellor, expressing willingness to give foreign aid debts priority, proposed that West Germany make bilateral pacts with the various countries on the pattern of her Marshall Aid agreement with the United States.

A joint statement issued by the three Allied High Commissioners and Dr Adenauer said that the revision of the Occupation Statute was made "to accelerate the integration of the Federal Republic (of West Germany) in the community of free nations."

Negotiations were still in progress "towards the establishment of contractual relations in connection with the association of Germany in the common defence effort of the West."

The announcement permits West Germany to establish diplomatic relations with all but the Communist States and Britain, France and the United States and Russia.

"Official agents" — whose duties were not defined — may be sent to London, Paris and Washington in addition to the Consuls already established there.

The Bonn Government may now open negotiations with

foreign countries without prior notice to the Allied High Commission but the latter retains the right to disapprove of any international agreements if considered prejudicial to a final peace settlement or incompatible with agreements or legislation arranged by the Allies on behalf of Germany.

Foreign missions and consulates in West Germany will now be accredited to the Bonn Government, which will also grant diplomatic and consular privileges.

The High Commission will not veto any international agreement between West Germany and a "friendly power."

The Allies will give up their right to scrutinise all German Federal and Land (State) legislation except where international agreements are concerned.

Amendments to the West German Constitution will still require previous Allied approval. Amendments to State Constitutions will not require previous Allied approval, but the High Commission retains the right to veto and annul all Federal and State legislation retrospectively.

The Allies retain control over disarmament, demilitarisation, the Ruhr reparations, civil aviation, decartelisation, deconcentration, security, war criminals, displaced persons and refugees, and a number of related matters.

The Allies will hand over control of Federal and State Constitutions when Germany sets up a satisfactory Constitutional Court.

As occasion arises the Allies will issue further revisions of the Occupation Statute.—Reuter.

LIABILITY ADMITTED

Bonn, Mar. 6.

Dr Konrad Adenauer, West German Federal Chancellor, in a statement today, acknowledged liability for Germany's pre-war external debts and in principle for post-war debts arising from Allied economic assistance.

The pre-war debts would include those of "other corporate bodies subsequently to be declared liabilities of the Reich, as well as for interest and other charges on securities of the Government of Austria to the extent that such interest and charges became due after

March 12, 1938, and before May 8, 1945."

The Bonn Government acknowledged in principle the debt arising from economic assistance furnished since May 8, 1945, "to the extent to which liability for such debt has not previously been acknowledged in the agreement on economic co-operation concluded on Dec. 15, 1949, between the Federal Republic and the United States of America or for which the Federal Government had not already taken over responsibility."

It expressed readiness to give obligations due to foreign economic aid priority over all other foreign claims against Germany or German nationals.

Dr Adenauer pledged West Germany's desire to resume payments on the German external debt.

The Allies, in their reply, said that they were preparing proposals for the working out of settlements of pre-war debts. These arrangements would provide for the participation of foreign creditors, German debtors and interested governments, including that of West Germany.

The Allies envisaged a settlement in the form of a multilateral agreement with any bilateral agreements that might be considered necessary concluded within the framework of the settlement plan.

CAPACITY TO PAY

The Allies and West Germany agreed that the settlement would take into account West Germany's capacity to pay, her economic position, including the increase of her burdens and reduction of economic wealth as a result of the war and her smaller area compared to the pre-war Reich.

It was agreed that a settlement plan would be provisional and subject to revision as soon as Germany was reunited and a peace settlement became possible.

The exchange of correspondence mentioned no figure for West Germany's debts.

A supplementary Allied communiqué gave the following estimates of debts:

Capital amount of pre-war securities yielding a fixed income not yet redeemed — about \$1,000 million — £357 million.

Expenditure incurred by the occupation powers as post-war assistance — \$3,500 million.

No final estimate of German debts had been made, it said, in view of the difference in the interests concerned and the necessity of having first to settle a number of legal problems.—Reuter.



GOIN' TO TOWN—Antonios Saltas, 75, obliges the photographer with a wide grin as he rides his mule down a modern highway in Athens.

U.S. To Produce The Canberra

Washington, Mar. 6.

Britain's Canberra jet bomber is to be put into production in the United States for the Air Force, the Defence Department announced here today.

Current plans call for the Glenn L. Martin Company of Baltimore, Maryland, to build a Night Intruder version of the twin jet Canberra under contract from the English company.

The Canberra flew the Atlantic in the record time of 4 hrs. 40 mins. on Feb. 23.

She came for inspection by American aviation experts and was yesterday flown to the Martin factory.—Reuter.

Japanese Gesture

Tokyo, Mar. 6.

Soil and vegetation from Mount Fuji (Fujiyama) will be sent to India for use at the foundation-stone laying ceremony for the Hindu temple of Somnath, in Kathiawar State, according to the Kyodo news agency today.—Reuter.

Symbolic Water For Indian Rites

Hobart, Mar. 6.

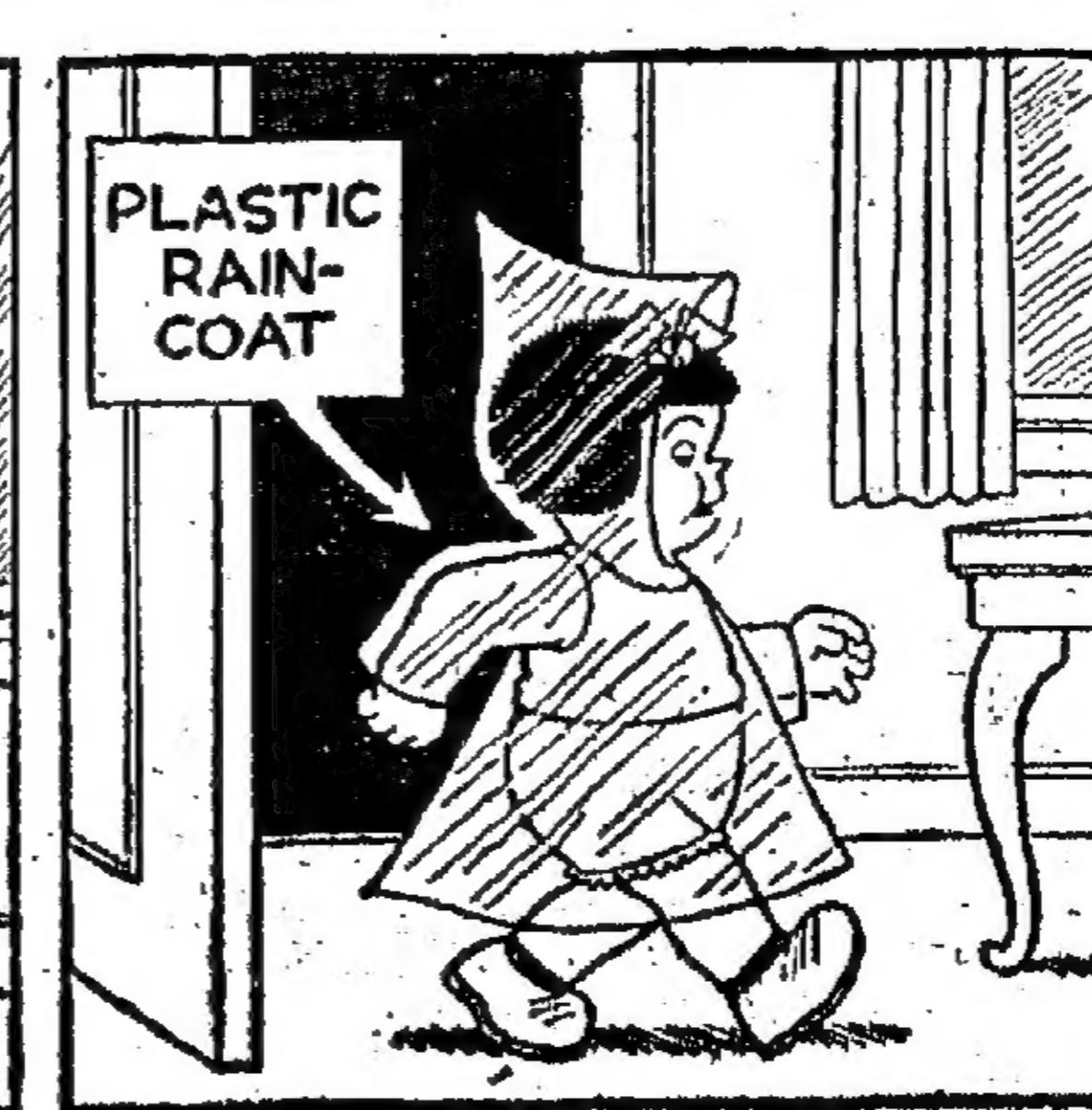
Twelve ounces of water was taken from the Southern Ocean below Hobart today for despatch in a sealed metal container to India.

It is one of a number of objects of symbolism being collected for use in ceremonies associated with the restoration of Kumarpal's Temple of Somnath in the town of Prabhupatan.

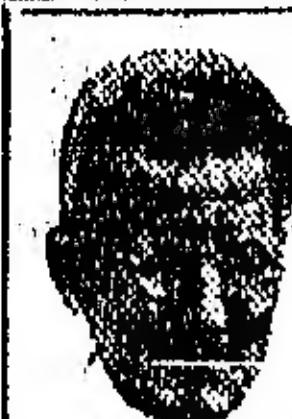
The High Commissioner for India in Australia, Mr K. S. Duleepshinji, has requested water from the Southern Ocean at Auckland, New Zealand, water from Australia's River Murray, twigs of vegetation from the Australian Alps and the New Zealand Alps and soil from New Zealand and from Australia's national capital of Canberra.

The first stage of the reconstruction of the temple is nearly finished and it is proposed that on April 7 the President of India will perform the foundation-stone laying ceremony.—Reuter.

NANCY Short(s) Sighted



By Ernie Bushmiller



BRUCE HARRIS, who has been with the England team throughout the tour, sums up after our Test victory:

I BLAME the SELECTORS

Melbourne.

One Test in five is ours—a gratifying sign indeed for the day when four Tests in five will go England's way. But this ought not to obliterate the fact that as a quest for the Ashes the tour has been a failure. Why?

Bad luck is the glib explanation with which the Australians console us. It will not altogether wash. True, we have had more than our share, including far the worst of the atrocious, sticky wicket at Brisbane; the loss of four tosses in five; injuries that put out of action Wright and Bailey in the third Test so neither could bowl a single ball; and now in the last game we again lost Bailey at his best.

But that is far from the whole cause. Part of the blame lies at home. The side was badly selected.

In particular, the omission of Bill Edrich, who played such a momentous part in steadying the batting four years ago, was a first-class blunder.

And if Tattersall was worth rushing into a Test immediately he arrived from English snowstorms, it looks as though he ought to have been in the original party.

What of the blame on the spot?

There has been the terrible failure of our batsmen to make runs and some brainless batsmanship, at critical times, too.

One cannot pass the buck to the captain. Brown has been a firm, resolute leader of cricketers and his personal performances, batting and bowling, have been beyond all expectations.

But even the most resolute captain cannot cope with such failures as those of Compton and, to a lesser degree, Washbrook and Simpson.

In the crisis this afternoon Compton showed signs of returning to real form again. One felt that if he had needed to make a century one would have been forthcoming. Simpson, in this innings in the latest match, showed an ability to tackle spin bowling absent in earlier encounters. The only pity is that he and Compton did not emphasise earlier what great batsmen they are.

And none of the younger batsmen, Dewes, Sheppard and Parkhouse, has developed sufficiently to fill the gap.

People from home are constantly asking me whether Compton is "finished." There is not the slightest reason to believe so, because Compton, apart from Tests, has batted brilliantly.

But each Test failure has begotten the succeeding one through waning confidence and the ugly question has gradually been gaining ground in Denis's

mind. "I wonder if I ever could play this cricket game?"

THAT KNEE

I asked him about that knee. To some degree it has been a handicap ever present in the back of his mind. He replied that he just could not foretell how long it would stand up—maybe years.

The danger is that more bits may chip off and in that event my knee would have to be opened up again. That may not happen. Anyhow, I shall continue playing as long as I can," he said.

Washbrook is 36, growing thickset and in the late afternoon of his cricket England cannot expect much more stout service from his bat.

As for Dewes, Sheppard and Warr, if their future work will prevent their playing regularly, far better to have experimented with young professionals like Lawson and Watson of Yorkshire.

There are five Cambridge men past and present, on this tour. Only two, Brown and Bailey have really justified themselves.

I see Herbert Sutcliffe has said: "Guts are needed by English cricketers playing against Australia."

How right he is. But I do not altogether accept the implication that they are in short supply among the MCC party.

SUCCESSES

The troubles lies higher in the human anatomy than the midriff—the top storey. At times cricketing sense has been lacking. Had it not been, we should probably have won the first two Tests.

Evans has been brilliant as a wicket-keeper—one of the successes of the tour—but his batting, which could be so valuable, continues to have too much of the slapdash about it.

Unqualified successes have been Brown; courageous Hutton, brilliant to the last; the magnificent dependable Bedser, the best bowler on either side; and Bailey following hard on his heels.

I will not list the failures. I suppose in cricketing sense young Bob Berry is one. He could hardly have expected, after the first month, to play in a Test. Yet, all the way through he has been a terrific trier, cheerful on and off the field—a fine tourer.

The moral of the tour: Winning the Ashes from a Bradmanless Australia is well within our compass in 1952—if we do not let things drift between now and then and if the selectors are really selective.

—Reuter

Impressive Debut By Pakistani In Squash Turney

London, Mar. 6. Hashim Khan, the 35-year-old professional from Peshawar (Pakistan), made an impressive debut in the British professional squash rackets Championship at the Lansdowne Club here today.

Khan, who is seeded as the probable finalist against the title-holder, Jim Dear, of Queen's Club, won his second round match against Bill Blake, the young Cumberland Club professional, by 9-2, 9-2.

Khan confirmed his reputation as one of the speediest players about the court in the game and he combined with his mobility a power of shot above the average. Blake put up strong resistance but was outclassed. — Reuter

—(London Express Service)

THE WELSH ARE CONVINCED WILF GRANT IS THE 'FIND' OF THE SOCCER SEASON

By PETER DITTON

London.

Which player has proved the best 'find' of the present soccer season? Half a dozen people in different parts of England would probably give have a dozen different answers to that question. But ask anybody in Wales and you will get only one answer: "Wilf Grant of Cardiff City."

That opinion is heartily endorsed by Cardiff Manager Cyril Spiers, the former Tottenham goalkeeper, who told me this week that in his opinion Grant is now one of the best centre-forwards in the country.

You may say there is nothing surprising in this. But the point is that Grant was originally an outside-right, and until his conversion to leader of the attack about three months ago he could not command a regular place in the Cardiff team. The club were prepared to put him on the transfer list.

Now he is valued in the big money class and is playing a leading part in more respects than one in Cardiff's bid to regain First Division status. Last Saturday (February 24) he scored the goal which enabled Cardiff to beat their promotion-hunting rivals Blackburn and that goal may well prove to be the deciding factor in the race to get back into the higher Division.

PART OF A "FEE"

When Grant joined Cardiff two seasons ago he was part of the "fee" paid by Southampton for Ernie Stevenson, the Welsh club's clever little inside-forward. Grant had been commanding a fairly regular place in the Southampton first team at outside-right and in that position he performed creditably in the Cardiff team for the remainder of the season.

Then came one of these losses of form which comes to most footballers in time and Grant lost his place in the Cardiff team. He was relegated to the reserves and in that team he played with several of the different players with whom Cardiff were experimenting to solve their centre-forward weakness.

This particular position had not been successfully filled since Cardiff won promotion from the Third Division in the first year after the war and bids had been made for two or three well-known players, including Trevor Ford, who eventually went to Sunderland for the record fee of approximately £30,000.

Then, three months ago, in the match against Sheffield United, Cardiff made their seventh attempt of the season to fill successfully their vacant centre-forward position. They chose wing-half Hollyman to lead the attack and they also brought back Grant in the outside-right position.

FATE TOOK A HAND

It was at this point that fate took a hand in the affairs of the Welsh club and also of Wilfred Grant. For, mid-way through the match, one of the Cardiff wing-halves was injured. Hollyman had to be brought back Grant in the outside-right position.

Hatton's Grace Wins Hurdle Cup For Third Time

Cheltenham, Mar. 6.

The 11-year-old Irish gelding, Hatton's Grace, won the Champion Hurdle Challenge Cup, the run over two miles, for the third year in succession when the three-day National Hunt racing festival began here today.

National Spirit, winner of the event in 1947 and 1948, was racing slightly ahead of Hatton's Grace when he fell at the last hurdle. Hatton's Grace, who started 4 to 1 second favourite, then sprinted away

from two French-owned challengers, Pyrrhus and Prince Hindou, to win by five lengths. Pyrrhus, an 11 to 2 shot, beat Prince Hindou, another 9 to 2 chance, by half a length for the second place. The 11 to 4 favourite, Average, was fourth. A field of eight ran. — Reuter

THE SPORTSMAN'S DIARY

Mr. Ling Will Not 'Nip Round' Now

Major Bill Ling, 43-year-old works manager of a stationery works at Sawston, Cambridgeshire, received a letter the other day, asking him if he would referee an Upwell Nursing Cup soccer match on April 28.

He wrote back regretting he was not available because he would be refereeing Spurs and Sheffield Wednesday that day. But that if the teams cared to make the kick-off 7 p.m. he would be glad to "nip round" and referee this charity game. Later came another invitation for the same day—to referee the FA Cup final.

So the former pupil of Sir Stanley Rous—when Rous was a teacher at Two Waters School, Herne, Hempstead—takes a cup final 17 years after his master.

Mr. Ling tells me that it was after he had left school and was playing for a local side at left-half that Mr. Rous (as he then was) recommended him to take up refereeing.

It seems ridiculous that a man like Mr. Ling, whose talent must have been obvious, should have taken 23 years to gain promotion to the full League list—from West Herts minor football via Spartan League, Isthmian League and Combination football.

Last season was Major Ling's first on the Football League full list, but he has already refereed 11 internationals. The Olympic games final between Sweden and Yugoslavia he considers the toughest he has handled.

RINGSIDE SEATS

Mrs. Millie Clayton and Mrs. Sonia Phillips, both brunettes, each had a ringside seat at their husbands' championship fight at Nottingham—but did not meet.

"I should like to have had a chat with Phillip's wife," said Mrs. Clayton. "I know what it is to sit and see your husband talking it and not being able to do anything about it."

Mrs. Phillips told me she had averted her head for the whole of the last three rounds. "I could not stand any more," she said.

Later, as her bruised and battered husband rested on a dressing-room table, she turned to the assembled spectators and announced: "Ladies and

gentlemen, he will never fight again."

PHILLIPS IN HOSPITAL

After a week's rest Clayton has a non-title fight at Manchester, and then... perhaps Sandy Saddler and the world title.

Phillips is now in Grantham Hospital. Motoring home after the fight in the early hours of this morning the boxer complained of his stomach.

Trainer "Snowy" Buckingham said that this "had nothing to do with boxing. He drank a lot of cold water after he had finished the fight and it upset his stomach."

—(London Express Service)

New Dates For Ryder Cup Match

London, Mar. 6. The Professional Golfers' Association of Great Britain announced today that the Ryder Cup golf match between the United States and Great Britain will be played at Pinehurst, North Carolina, on Friday and Sunday, November 2 and 4, instead of, as previously stated, on November 3 and 4.

For the first time in the history of the event, there will be a blank day between the foursomes and the singles. The American P.G.A. desired that the Saturday should remain free because an important University football game is being staged at Chapel Hill nearby. The British players have been invited to accompany the American golfers to the match. — Reuter

FOR THE BUSINESSMAN

East Germany Big Supplier Of Communist China

Leipzig, Mar. 6.

Communist East Germany is second only to the Soviet Union as supplier of Communist China, it was announced here today.

George Handtke, Minister of Foreign Trade for the East German Government, told a Press conference, "We follow the Soviet Union in trade with the People's Republic of China as a result of our trade agreement."

Even bigger exports would be sent to both China and the Soviet Union in the next year although he lambasted the West German Republic and "American imperialists" for preventing inter-German trade.

Handtke said a large Chinese delegation is in Leipzig for the Fair which opened on Monday to negotiate further exchanges and that the first ship bearing cargo from China for East Germany had arrived at Antwerp last week and was en route by rail.

Handtke did not give any figures on East German exports, except on the usual percentage basis. He claimed that the East German exports jumped 42 percent in 1950 with a 56 percent gain registered in trade with Russia, China and other Eastern European States.

Nonetheless, he repeatedly demanded that trade between East and West Germany be restored. At the same time, he declared, that the West would have to accept the "basic principle of our trade policy" that trade depended upon which nation the East Germans considered friendly. He said Russia and China are on this list.

Industrial sources reported that the primary East German exports to China included machine tools and agricultural machinery.

Handtke said, "East Germany has been given an assignment to replace the Ruhr as industrial supplier for the East."—United Press.

New York Sugar Futures

New York, Mar. 6. World sugar futures closed here today 7 to 8 higher, with sales totalling 638 contracts.

Contract No. 6 closed today 4 to 7 higher, with sales totalling 261 contracts.

Prices closed today as follows:

Contract No. 4 (world)	
May	5.47 traded
July	5.47
September	5.47 "
Spot	5.45
Contract No. 6	
May	5.48 bid
July	5.64 traded
September	5.69 "
Spot	5.45

United Press.

Rubber Futures In S'pore

Singapore, Mar. 6. Prices of rubber futures closed here today as follows:

Number 1 rubber, per lb.	228-229
March	224 ¹ / ₂
April	225 ¹ / ₂
May	220-221
Number 2 rubber, March	219-220
Number 3 rubber, March	206-207
Number 4 rubber, March	196-197
Spot rubber unladen	229-230
Black crepe	103-105
No. 1 pale crepe	230-235

United Press.

London Rubber Futures

London, Mar. 6. Prices of rubber futures closed here today as follows:

per lb.	73 ¹ / ₂ -73 ¹ / ₂
April	69 ¹ / ₂ -74 ¹ / ₂
July/September	66-67
October/December	60-60 ¹ / ₂
nominal	55 ¹ / ₂

United Press.

JACK DAVIES Show Talking

ANOTHER FILM VERSION DUE OF PRIESTLEY'S "THE GOOD COMPANIONS"

One of the most interesting films to be produced at Elstree this year will be an Associated British re-make of J. B. Priestley's "The Good Companions."

First made in 1934 at the old Gaumont-British studios in Lime Grove, it starred Jessie Matthews, Edmund Gwenn and John Gielgud. Who will play their roles in the new version? Associated British will give me no clue.

But under contract to them are two young ladies both of whom are capable of stepping into Miss Matthews' dancing shoes—Pat Dainton and Audrey Hepburn. I hope executive producer Robert Clark will give one or the other a chance to do so.

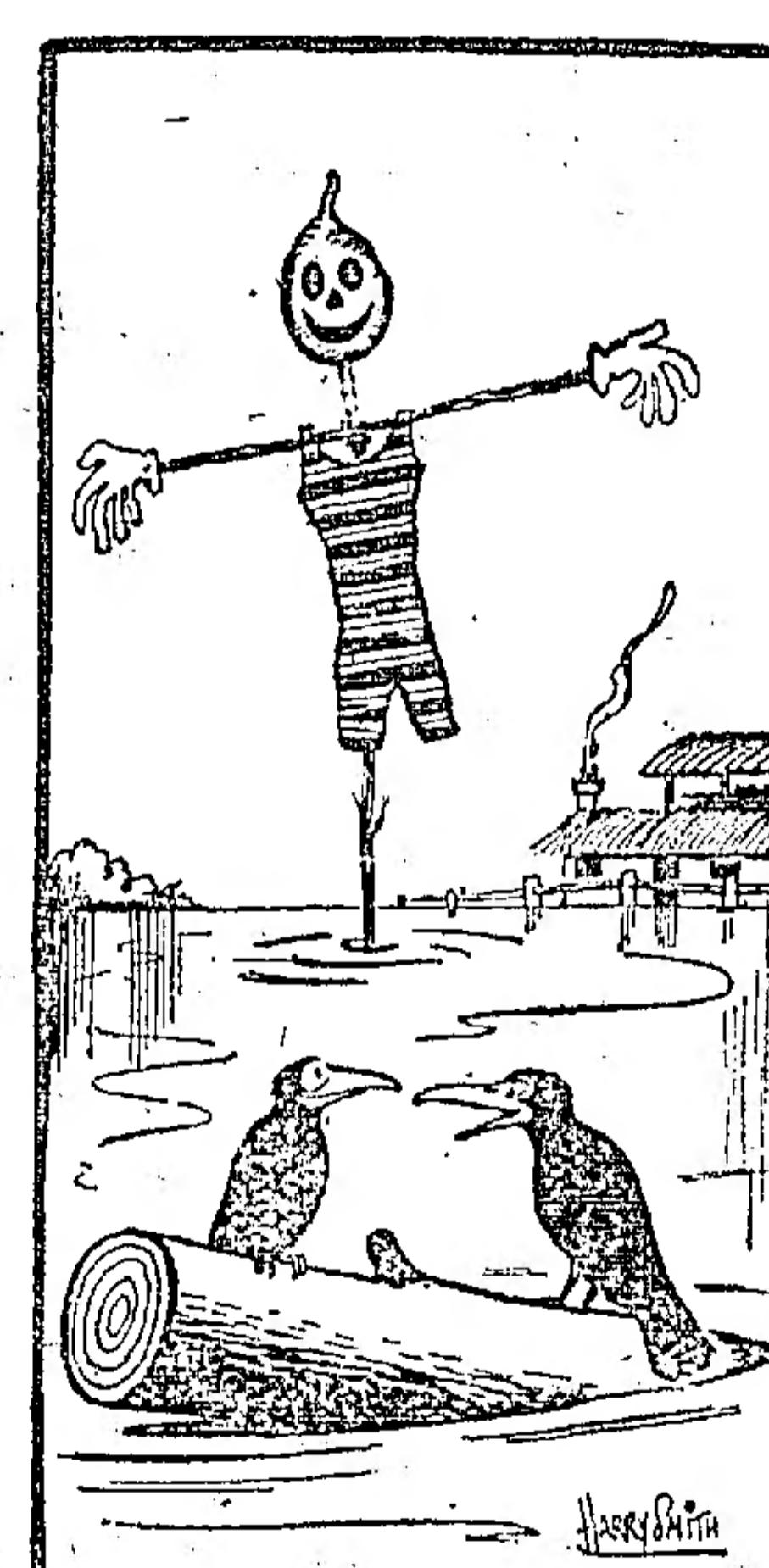
HITS FOR HUNTER

Who is London's busiest playwright? Terence Rattigan? Roger MacDougal? Christopher Fry? It

is none of these successful young men, but a comparatively unknown novelist, N. (for Norman) C. Hunter. In the last few weeks he has sold three plays to West End managements.

First was "The Affair at As-sino," which was tried out at Windsor and promptly bought by Sir Bronson Albery. Second, "Waters of the Moon," is now being readied for production with a cast including Dame Edith Evans. Third, "Portrait of Autumn," was presented by the Repertory Players last Sunday, will get another production later in the year.

A fourth play is due for a try-out in seven weeks' time. As a result of these successes, 40-year-old Hunter has given up



ABLE SEAMAN



writing novels. I don't blame him.

SPOILS OF WAR

Producer Jack Raymond has decided to cash in on the current popularity of war plays and films. Having completed the film of "Worm's Eye View"—which had a riotously successful sneak preview at Hammersmith last week—he has now bought the film rights of "Reluctant Heroes" and will put it into production at the Riverside Studios in April. No cast is yet set, but I shall be very surprised if Wally Patch, Brian Rix and author Colin Morris do not appear in their original roles.

NO TIME FOR BOWLS

In Devon last summer 33-year-old radio actor Hugh Falkus and his friend, film director Sam Lee, produced a 38-minute movie called "Drake's Armada." Falkus wrote the script and plays the male lead. Leading lady was a 25-year-old Paignton fashion model, Betty Hyde.

With hired camera and equipment, cast and technicians journeyed from location to location in a shooting brake, which also appeared in the film.

The production was completed in three weeks despite August downpours and no end of financial difficulties. Final backing came from a Devon market gardener and hotel proprietor.

But enterprise has its rewards: "Drake's Armada" is now on view in the West End—at the Leicester Square Theatre—and Falkus and Lee have a contract to make more films like it in other parts of the country.

NOTED AT RANDOM

Multi-voiced Howard Marion Crawford, who has often played four or five roles in one broadcast, is not expecting anyone to recognise him in "The Man in the White Suit." After playing characters of almost every nationality and in every type of make-up, he is finally playing himself.

You'll be glad to hear that the 60th Fighter Interceptor Unit of the USAAF has voted Ruth Roman as "the girl we'd most like to get lost in the clouds with." Time Marches On Division: Mary Astor will be a grandmother in April!

Audrey Cruddas, who did the decor and costumes for "Golden City," will do the costumes for Sir Laurence Olivier's two Festival productions—a big break for a young girl.

"In this town," says the Hollywood Reporter, "Marriage is still the best grounds for divorce." Well, it had to happen. The American Humane Association and SPCA have together sponsored an "Oscar" award for animals. Five hundred U. S. critics, columnists and editors have been asked to vote for 1950's best animal star. Among the contenders: Francis the mule, Flicka the dog, Rupert the

squirrel, and, of course, Lassie. Presumably M.-G.-M.'s Leo is not eligible.

Dennis Price and A. E. Matthews shouldn't have any difficulty in learning their roles for "The Magic Box." They have one line each....

There'll be a three minute ballet in Ealing's "The Lost People".... Looks as though Geraldine will be losing his singer, Eve Boswell. Her husband has taken up sheep-farming in Australia and wants her to join him there.... Bette Davis starts work on "Another Man's Poison" at Nettlefold on April 9 after a week's location shooting.... Incidentally Nettlefold's claims to be the oldest film studio in the world. It is 57 years old....

Actor Bob Hyatt goes back to Warner Bros., after a six-year break to play in "Tomorrow is Another Day." Between times he's been growing up. He's ten now.... Beatrice Campbell will be Constance Smith's sister in "House on the Square"....

Angela Lansbury will play the Joan Greenwood role in the New York production of "Young Wives Tale".... 30,000 people applied for tickets for the opening of "Kiss Me, Kate," 27,750 of them are going to be unlucky....

Gabriel Pascal wants to film the life of Gandhi. "I enjoy long walks," says William Powell, "especially when they are taken by people who annoy me."

STANDARD BRIDGE

By M. Harrison-Gray

Dealer: North

North-South game.

N.

Q 10 4 2

A K Q 6

Q J

A Q 5

W.

K 9 8 5 3

9 4 3

A 8 7 6 3

5 4

3 2

J 10 7 4

S.

A J 6

J 7

K 10 9 2

K 9 8 6

A slam was easy to call after an opening bid of One Heart by North and a limit response of Two No-Trumps by South. North bid Four No-Trumps—a natural quantitative raise that could not be confused with Blackwood—and South bid Six No-Trumps with a hand approaching a maximum.

West led $\heartsuit 10$ and continued the suit after winning a trick with $\clubsuit A$. All guess-work was eliminated when West was found to have ten cards in the red suits: South cashed $\clubsuit A$ before playing Dummy's last Heart, and the fall of $\spades K$ was an unexpected pleasure. But South was sure of his contract in any case for if East held $\clubsuit K$ he would be unable to retain his guard in Clubs. A Spade lead is awkward if the hand is played by North.

London Express service.

By Holt

FAR EAST POWS PRESS CLAIMS

An All-Party Meeting Arranged In House Of Commons

Indictment Of Japanese For Inhuman Treatment

(OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

London, Mar. 6. Lieut-Gen. A. E. Percival, who commanded the Singapore garrison at the time of its fall to the Japanese in 1942, will be among the speakers at an all-Party meeting in the House of Commons tomorrow to press the claim of 30,000 British Far Eastern prisoners-of-war for compensation from their captors.

The claim is being put forward on their behalf by the Returned British Prisoners-of-War Association. It is based on petitions signed by thousands of ex-prisoners-of-war accusing the Japanese of violating the Geneva Convention and treating prisoners in a manner contrary to the usages of war.

Stormy Scene In Italian Parliament

Rome, Mar. 6.

Italian Communists tonight yelled in a stormy Chamber of Deputies session that they would never fight against the Soviet Union.

Shouts rang out as the Defence Minister, Signor Randolph Pacciardi, spoke in the debate on the government's defence appropriations bill.

Heckled by Communists and Left Wing Socialists, Mr Pacciardi turned to them and demanded: "Would you as Italians fight against the Soviet Union?"

The Left wing bloc yelled: "No, never!"

Then the Minister said amid cat calls that the division was no longer between "whether we want or do not want war, but between those who want to defend their fatherland and those who do not."

The government bill requested extraordinary appropriations of 250,000,000,000 lire. Premier de Gasperi's government was expected to win by a comfortable margin.—United Press.

Operations In Burma

Rangoon, Mar. 6.

Major military operations against the Communist insurgents are making satisfactory progress in the Hengzai district, 80 miles north of Rangoon, an official communiqué said today.

Burmese Government troops liberated two villages in the district, the communiqué added.

Naval units shelled enemy concentrations at the village of Maubin, 30 miles south of Rangoon, and inflicted heavy casualties, the communiqué said.—Reuter.

North Korean Claims

London, Mar. 6.

A North Korean communiqué, broadcast by Peking Radio, today claimed that 11 enemy planes were brought down by the Korean People's Army in the Seoul area in the three days ending March 4.

The North Koreans claimed the sinking of two United Nations ships near the east coast of Korea, in a communiqué issued at Pyongyang, the North Korean capital, a Tass, Soviet news agency, message said today.—Reuter.

Neutrals To Join In Talks

Washington, Mar. 6.

Two World War II neutrals, Sweden and Spain, will be represented on the tungsten and molybdenum allocations committee of the central group of the International Materials Conference which meets here on March 8.

This is the only raw materials allocations committee on which there are former wartime neutrals so far. The committees for copper, lead and zinc, for sulphur, for cotton, and for manganese, nickel and cobalt do not have World War II neutrals in their membership. Switzerland is not represented on any committee.

However, diplomatic officials point out that countries are entitled to be heard by each of these committees as to their needs for raw materials.—United Press.

Advice To The Farmer

Copenhagen, Mar. 6.

Danish agricultural expert, Herluf Hansen, today recommended that farmers express affection for their pigs. He said nervous farmers had nervous pigs.

"Any mental disturbance is immediately reflected in the pigs," he said. "Keep your temper, talk in a friendly way to your pigs and caress them. The financial results will be excellent.—United Press.

Stiffening Paris Tone

(Continued from Page 1)

ful phrases," Mr Gromyko "stiffened his tone and the atmosphere was heightened," the spokesman said.

In reply to a question the spokesman added, "They never ceased to be courteous to each other."

The spokesman said that the agenda put forward on behalf of the United States, Britain and France was "extremely widely drafted and made no attempt to prejudge solutions of the problems or, indeed, colour presentation".

In the Russian agenda, on the other hand, he said, "there are bits which do, in fact, seem to prejudge issues."

He pointed out that the Russians had suggested and maintained throughout that no attempt should be made to go into the substance of the questions. Questions of substance should be reserved for the Foreign Ministers themselves, the spokesman said.

HOPES DAMPENED

Reuter's correspondent Sylvan Mangot writes that Mr Gromyko today dampened hopes of a quick agreement on an agenda for top "Big Four" meeting.

His 90-minute speech had changed the character of the deputies' meeting—called to draw up a list of subjects and deliberately instructed to avoid questions of substance—by charging the Western Powers' policies in Germany, with responsibility for the existing East-West tension.

The introduction of questions of substance put back into the melting pot the entire terms of reference of the Paris meeting, Western observers considered to night.

At Moscow's own request in the notes leading to the Paris meeting, these terms of reference excluded discussion of substance.

Mr Gromyko's action faces the Western delegates with the alternative of following suit with the risk that the Paris conference will degenerate into a propaganda match or of trying to put the discussion back on the agreed lines which were respected at yesterday's opening meeting.

The reticence of Western spokesmen after tonight's meeting was a clear indication that their delegations still prefer the latter course.

But it was expected that both Mr Davies and Dr Jessup would communicate with their Governments overnight on this point in the light of Mr Gromyko's speech.—Reuter.

FIRST REACTION

Bonn, Mar. 6.

Russian acceptance of an Austrian peace treaty on the agenda of the Big Four Foreign Ministers' Conference was a "most encouraging sign," West German political circles said here tonight.

This was the first sign of Soviet willingness to co-operate with the Western Allies in at-



Clinging to actress Ginger Rogers' skirts as they chat in New York is little Joya Moore, four. They were at a fashion show and seemed mutually interested in each other's gown.

Labour's Motive Not Understood

Key West, Florida, March 6.

Mobilisation chief, Mr Charles Wilson, after a three-hour talk with President Truman today, said they were cognizant of labour's revolt against the mobilisation programme but that neither could understand "what all the excitement and shooting are about."

Mr Wilson said, he and Mr Truman took up the question of labour's revolt "only in general." The President was in agreement that the programme must go on and that "nothing or nobody must interfere with it."

Mr Wilson said, the chances of world peace will be advanced "as we come to the strength projected for the nation in the near future." He had not "the slightest idea" when labour will come back into the mobilisation command.

Organised labour last week pulled all its representatives out of defence and mobilisation agencies.—United Press.

Paratroop Peril In Wartime

London, Mar. 6. Britain must be prepared in the event of war to defend herself against as many as six divisions of paratroopers, Mr Anthony Eden told the House of Commons today.

Mr Eden said Britain could not depend again entirely on intercepting enemy aircraft. She also must concentrate on hitting enemy bases and rocket launching sites to cripple any attack before it eventually gets under way.

Mr Eden said: "I would reckon maybe 500 to 1,000 four-engine aircraft could be organised to deal with something up to six divisions."—United Press.

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